

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow. Applicants respectfully request that the foregoing amendments be entered, at least because they place the application in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 9 and 15 are currently being amended. Support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found at least in Figure 8 and the accompanying text. No new matter has been added.

This amendment changes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-15 are now pending in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the indication that claim 13 is allowed and that claims 9 and 15 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 9 and 15 have been amended to be in independent form, and thus are in *prima facie* condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3-8, 10, 11 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0010634 (“Yokoi”) in view of “Spring Machines” by Linderoth, Jr. (“Linderoth”). Claims 1, 2, 8, 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,899,559 (“Lachmayer”) in view of Linderoth. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Yokoi in view of Linderoth, and further in view of “Solenoid (electricity)” by Meisel (“Meisel”). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1, as amended, recites “a spring that is configured to move the shade from the high beam position to the low beam position via an elastic force, wherein a difference

between the magnetic force and the elastic force initially increases and then decreases over the stroke of the plunger to change a moving speed of the shade as the shade moves position.” The references cited in the rejection fail to suggest at least this feature of claim 1 in the context of that claim.

The Office Action recognizes that Yokoi and Lachmayer fail to disclose the claimed limitations regarding the difference between the magnetic force and elastic force, but supplies Linderoth as disclosing such features. Applicant submits, however, that Linderoth fails to cure the deficiencies of Yokoi and Lachmayer.

With respect to Linderoth, the Office Action states that Linderoth teaches that springs commonly having surging, the inability of all parts of the spring to deflect at the same rate due to inherent inertia in the coils, and therefore the force of the spring has some inherent variability. The Office Action then states that such surging would be inherent in Yokoi and Lachmayer.

Even if the springs of Yokoi and Linderoth were subject to surging, which has not been established by the Patent Office for the expected operating frequency of these systems, there is no suggestion that the surging would be such that a difference between the magnetic force of the Yokoi and Linderoth solenoids and the elastic force of their springs would initially increase and then decrease over the stroke of any plunger of their solenoids. Thus, even if the springs of Yokoi and Linderoth experienced surging, the Patent Office has not established that the claimed difference between the magnetic force and elastic force would inherently result. Claim 1 is patentable for at least this reason.

Moreover, Yokoi and Linderoth fail to suggest the advantages of the recited difference between the claimed magnetic force of the solenoid and the elastic force of the spring in reducing noise. As disclosed in the paragraphs from page 11, line 12 to page 12, line 18, in the present specification, when the difference between the magnetic force and the elastic force has the shape as shown in Figure 8, i.e., it initially increases and then decreases over the stroke of the plunger, the operating noise between shade and stopper can be reduced. By contrast, Yokoi and Linderoth fail to suggest reducing noise by the difference between the claimed magnetic force of the solenoid and the elastic force of the spring.

Meisel was cited for disclosing details of the force for a Solenoid, but fails to cure the deficiencies of Yokoi and Linderoth.

The dependent claims are patentable at least based on their dependency on claim 1, as well as based on their own patentable subject matter.

Moreover, the invention as claimed provides further advantages in embodiments where the shade includes abutting surfaces having a truncated V shape, and the stopper includes side protrusions having a truncated V shape to abut against the abutting surfaces when the shade is in a low beam position. In this case, as disclosed on page 10 of the specification, the stay does not move in either direction lengthwise, nor does the stay move in the width direction, thus providing some stability of the shade. Yokoi fails to suggest this feature of embodiments of the invention as claimed where the shade includes abutting surfaces having a truncated V shape, and the stopper includes side protrusions having a truncated V shape to abut against the abutting surfaces when the shade in a low beam position.

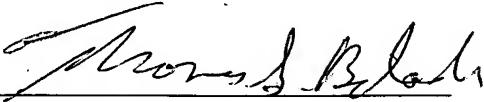
Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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